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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yamazaki, et al. Art Unit : Unknown  
 Serial No.: not yet assigned Examiner : Unknown  
 Filed : August 6, 2001  
 Title : SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Before the first line of the specification, please add the following new paragraph:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of and claims priority to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/696,479, filed October 24, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,271,818, issued August 7, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/997,919, filed December 24, 1997, now U.S. Patent ~~6,147,919~~ issued November 14, 2000. --  
 6,147,167

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